

# THE RIO NEWS.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, MAY 26TH, 1896.

NUMBER 22

## WILSON, SONS & CO.

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2, RUA DE S. PEDRO  
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The New Zealand Shipping Companies,  
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Coal.—Large stocks of the best Cardiff steam Coal always kept in Rio depôt on Concoição Island.

Tug Boats always ready for service.

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## KING, FERREIRA & Co.

Successors to W. R. CASSELS & Co.

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Importers and Agents for Manufacturers.

Further Agencies, suitable to their lines of business—Hard ware, Domestic good, Specialties, etc., etc.—are respectfully solicited.

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and General Commission Merchants.

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Exporters of Bordeaux Wines;

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CAIXA NO CORREIO 18

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Passenger and Freight Locomotives, Mine Locomotives, Narrow Gauge Locomotives, Steam Street Cars, etc., etc.

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The service and kitchen are of the best.

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This establishment, the first in Brazil, for its elegance, comfort and situation amidst forests and enjoying the most magnificent scenery views of the mountains, town, the harbor and high seas, is the most suitable for families and gentlemen of distinction.

Excellent restaurant, always ready.

Finest wines and liquors. Numerous shower and warm baths. Purest air, temperature, breezing and invigorating. No health resort in the world is better.

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TRAVAUX ET

L'ENTREPRISE

AL BRESIL

## Empreza Estivadora

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STOWAGE, LIGHTERAGE, TUG-BOATS

Quickest dispatch given to Steamers and sailing vessels.

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Norton, Megaw & Co., L'd.

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Business Founded 1795.

Incorporated under Laws of the State of New York, 1856

Reorganized, 1879.

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Translations from English into Portuguese,  
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Freight orders for American manufactures, machinery of  
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advances on consignments. Correspondence cordially at-  
tended to.

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Accumulated Funds..... £8,250,000

Insures against the risk of fire, houses, goods and merchandise at every kind of reduced rates.

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**LONDON AND LANCASHIRE FIRE INSURANCE Co.**Capital (fully subscribed)..... £2,127,500  
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Reserve fund..... £1,328,751  
Uncalled capital..... £2,400,751

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A constant supply of best steam coal &amp; Gory's Menhoy's always on hand. Prompt delivery at reasonable prices. Lightest always ready for service.

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DEPOT:

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Dealers in all classes of merchandise from Europe and the United States, as Importers, Commission Merchants and Consignees

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Manufacturers of Porcelain Teeth, Instruments, filling materials, etc. Guaranteed as good as the best, at lower prices. Get a sample set of teeth at

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Manufacturers of pumps, Hydraulic rams, pump chain, garden engines, Yard hydrants, street washers, etc.

Sole representatives in Brazil,

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Has always a large stock of Instantaneous Water Heaters, Baths, Filters, etc., etc.

Undertakes the installation of electric light bells, portable and fixed Telephones, Lightning-conductors, in the City or in the Interior.

Guaranteed for two years.

50, RUA DO GONÇALVES DIAS

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**JOHN SHERRINGTON,**

Mechanical Engineer,

(Engenheiro Mechanico).

For 20 years Manager of the Lidgerwood Manufacturing Co., Ltd., lately Manager of the São Paulo branch.

Correspondence solicited.

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This pension is recommended by its magnificent position and arrangements, with a splendid view over the bay; has fine rooms, large garden, terraces, etc., etc., and all comforts of a first-class pension.

Moderate prices.

**CLUB DAS LARANJEIRAS.**

The first Smoking Concert of the season will take place at the Club on Saturday the 30th inst. at 9 p.m.

H. L. Wheatley. 2nd Sec.

**Wanted** a good Carver and Spinner for the North Brazil preference given to one with some knowledge of a sawing

Apply to HENRY ROGERS, SONS &amp; Co. 25, Rua da Alfândega.

**Wanted.** "messie geral" for a small Spinning and Weaving Factory in Minas. Apply to HENRY ROGERS SONS & Co. 25, Rua da Alfândega.**Missing Friends.**

Information wanted at the British Consulate General, No. 2, Rua General Camara as to the following:

JOCELYN, R.—A resident in Rio for some three months past. Information desired as to his whereabouts.

DUNFORD, John.—Was last heard of about ten years ago, he then being in Saude Hospital. Information required as to his whereabouts.

APLEY, Walter.—Was living some time since with Senhor Maurice Harey-F. Pareira da Bella Alhagui, Viçosa Alegre, state of Rio. Information required as to his whereabouts.

MARCOS, Fortunato—Maltese; was lately here on board one of Her Majesty's ships belonging to the Squadron on the S. E. Coast of America. It is stated that he left his ship and was staying at Joseph's lodging-house.

OLKE, Frederick—Engineer, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, England. Left home several years ago. His relations hear that he lately died of yellow fever. Can anyone furnish any information respecting him?

TULLY, or TULLY, Mathias—Native of Ireland. When last heard of was engaged in mining in Brazil. Enquiries made about him from John, Mich. Will hear very good news on calling at the Consulate General.

Rio de Janeiro, March 29th, 1896.

**Official Directory**

U.S. LEGATION.—Petropolis THOMAS L. THOMPSON Minister.

BRITISH LEGATION.—No. 1, Rua Visconde de Itaboraity (opposite Custom House). Petropolis. EDMUND C. H. PHIPPS, Minister.

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL.—No. 45, Rua Theophilo Ottoni. Wm. T. TOWNES, Consul General.

BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL.—No. 1, Rua Visconde de Itaboraity (opposite Custom House). WILLIAM G. WAGSTAFF, Consul General.

**Church Directory**

CHRIST CHURCH.—Rua Evaristo da Veiga. Morning service every Sunday at 11 a.m. Holy communion after morning service on 1st Sunday of the month and at 9 a.m. on 2nd and 4th Sundays. Evening service during cool season according to notice. Baptisms after morning service or at other times by arrangement.

HENRY MOSLEY, M.A., British Chaplain.

IGREJA EVANGELICA FLUMINENSE.—Rua Larga de S. Joaquim, No. 179.—Divine service in Portuguese on Sundays: Prayer meeting at 10 a.m.; Worship at 11 a.m. Biblical class to study the Holy Scriptures, at 5 a.m. Gospel preaching, at 6 1/2 p.m. on Wednesdays. Biblical study, and preaching, at 7 p.m.

JOÃO M. G. DOS SANTOS, Pastor.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—Largo do Cattede. English services at 12 m. Sundays. Prayer meeting services, 7.30 p.m. Portuguese services: at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sundays; 7 p.m. Wednesdays.—E. A. TILLY and JOSÉ DA COSTA REIS, Pastors. Sunday School 11 a.m.; a. m.; a. m. Fabrica Calçada, Sundays, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Rev A. J. MELO.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—No. 15 Travessa da Barreira. Services in Portuguese every Sunday at 11 a.m., and 7 p.m., Sundays; and at 7 p.m. on Thursdays. JAMES B. RODGERS, Pastor.

BAPTIST CHURCH.—Rua de São Anna No. 25. Services in Portuguese every Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; and every Wednesday at 7 p.m. W. B. HAGBY, Pastor.

Residence: Ladeira do Senado No. 22. IGREJA PRESBYTERIANA DO RIO HUELO.—234 Rua D. Anna Nery, Estação do Riachuelo. Services Sundays 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Wednesdays 7.00 p.m. FRANKLIN H. NASCIMENTO, Pastor. Primary School in the church building.

**Medical Directory**

Dr. William Frederick Eisenlohr, German Physician. Office 35, Rua General Camara. Consulting hours from 12 to 3 p.m.

**Miscellaneous.**

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY'S AGENCY.—No. 117 Rua de S. José.—H. C. TUCKER, Agent.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY'S AGENCY.—Rua Sete de Setembro No. 71.—On sale, the Holy Scriptures in Portuguese, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and other languages.

JOÃO M. G. DOS SANTOS, Agent.

BRITISH SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.—113 Rua da Assembléa.—Open from noon to 6 p.m. For terms, apply to Librarian.

RIO SEAMEN'S MISSION.—Rest and Reading Room.—35, Rua da Saude, 1st floor; W. J. LUMBY, Missioner. Gifts of books, magazines, papers, etc., also of left-off clothing, will be gratefully received at the Mission or at No. 25, Rua Theophilo Ottoni.

**WEST COAST ITEMS.**

—An epidemic of diphtheria has broken out in Santiago, Chili. The people are greatly alarmed over the rapid progress it is making.

—It is said that public sentiment in Peru is very decidedly against the Loreto insurrection. Even Caceres has volunteered to lead an expedition against the insurgents.

—A Lima telegram of the 24th says that Pirola has admonished the wife of General Caceres to stop promoting political meetings against the present government, or she will be expelled from Peru.

—A Santiago telegram of the 23rd says the Chilean foreign minister has called home the secretary of legation at Rio de Janeiro, now at Mendoza, for indiscreet utterances to a newspaper reporter. A subsequent telegram says he will be dismissed.

—Nothing was known at Lima of the Loreto revolution until the Mantos telegram was received. An expedition is being organized to subdue the insurgents. A telegram published here yesterday says a small naval vessel is to be sent to Iquitos by way of the Straits of Magellan. This is a good problem for the geography class.

**THE BEARING SEA CLAIMS.**

The ratification of the treaty providing for a commission to determine the claims of Canada on sealers against the United States on account of the seizure of vessels in Bering sea promises to put an end to that part of the old controversy. It could have been settled with less trouble, and probably with less expense, by carrying out the agreement of 1894 between the state department and the British minister for the payment of a lump sum, but congress, in its assumed wisdom, refused to appropriate the money.

There has been some misconception on this subject on both sides of the Atlantic, and it may be well to recall the facts. This matter was not settled by the Paris arbitration tribunal in 1893, but the determination of the main question as to jurisdiction left no doubt of the responsibility of the United States government for the losses. There was a "special finding" upon facts agreed upon by the agents of the two governments as to the seizure of fourteen vessels and the driving of three others out of Bering sea by our revenue cutters, but the question of the value of these and whether any of them were owned by citizens of the United States was withdrawn from the arbitration without any prejudice to our right to raise it in subsequent negotiations.

In 1894 Secretary Gresham and Minister Pounceford entered into an amiable agreement to provide for a settlement of these claims in the speediest and easiest way. After a careful examination of the claims, in the light of all the circumstances and of the Paris decision, they agreed upon the payment by the United States government, subject to the approval of congress, of \$425,000 to the British government, which, subject to the approval of parliament, should accept it and itself satisfy the demands of the Canadian sealers.

There has never been any reason to regard this as anything but a wise and prudent, as well as a friendly, way of disposing of the claims. It would have avoided the delay, the trouble, expense, and uncertainty, and the attendant ill feeling, of further negotiations and of litigation before a commission. But congress would not vote the money, and indulged instead in much unbecoming and ill-natured discussion. There was nothing left for a patient administration but to take up negotiations anew for a commission to award damages. The result was the treaty which the senate has just ratified.

The British government is to appoint one commissioner and the United States government one, and, unless they can agree, a third is to be named by the republic of Switzerland, and sessions will be held at Vancouver, British Columbia, and at San Francisco, Cal., to receive statements and listen to evidence and award damages. It will take much time, involve much expense, and vindicate nothing but the obstinate folly of congress.—A. J. Times, April 17.

**EFFECTS OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION.**

The British consul at Havana, writing under date 2nd March, gives the following interesting account of the effects of the Cuban revolution on trade:—"The grinding of the cane in Cuba begins in December and lasts until April, and for the first three months of the season—December, 1894, January, 1895—there was no indication that things would not follow their usual course, or that we were on the brink of a catastrophe. But on February 24, 1895, an insurrection broke out in the province of Santiago de Cuba. This movement, at the start, was held to be of little importance; but it has since assumed gigantic proportions, has spread through the length and breadth of the island, and promises to be the most memorable of the numerous convulsions which have devastated this unhappy land. Business, every branch of which is largely dependent upon sugar, has, in consequence, been entirely disorganized, and, waiting at a time when the factories ought to be in full work, we are confronted with a complete state of paralysis. Under orders from Maximilian Gummer, the rebel commander-in-chief, a great portion of the cane has been burnt, while planters are for the most part unable to grind what remains, as the threat still hangs over them that if they attempt to do so their establishments, with the valuable machinery they contain, will be blown into the air. It was lately rumored that this order had been withdrawn, and that no further impediment would be placed in the way of grinding the remnant of the crop. But the loss already sustained through incendiarism has been enormous, and the time that remains before the rainy season sets in—when sugar manufacture becomes practically impossible—so short, so that instead of a production of about 1,000,000 tons, it is not expected that much more than one-quarter of that quantity, or say, 250,000 tons, will be reached during the present season of 1895-95. The revolution, however, had not extended sufficiently up to April, 1895, to interfere to any great extent with the production for the season 1894-95, to which this report principally relates. For 1893-94 the total export of sugar for the island amounted to 1,023,719 tons. The stocks on hand at the end of the season amounted to 14,460 tons; local consumption for twelve months was estimated at 35,000 tons, and there was, besides, a remnant on hand of the old crop of 33,965 tons. These figures together give a grand total of 1,054,214 tons. The totals under the same method of computation for 1894-95 amount to 1,004,264 tons, or 7 per cent. round numbers, a falling off of 50,000 tons. The crop this year, through the political state of the island, will be quite insignificant in comparison with former years, and it might therefore have been reasonably looked for that this diminished production would have given buoyancy to prices. This result has not followed, so far, which may probably be accounted for by the fact that the production of bounty-fed beetroot sugar in Europe continues to increase."

# Banks.

## LONDON AND BRAZILIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Capital..... £ 1,500,000  
Capital paid up..... 750,000  
Reserve fund..... 750,000

HEAD OFFICE: LONDON.

BRANCH OFFICE IN RIO DE JANEIRO

10, Rua da Alfandega

Draws on Head Office and the following Branches and Agencies:

LISBON, OPORTO, PARÁ,

PERNAMBUCO, MAHIA, SANTOS, SÃO PAULO

CAMPINAS, RIO GRANDE DO SUL,

PELOTAS, PORTO ALEGRE, MONTEVIDEO,

BUENOS AYRES AND NEW YORK.

Also on:

Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co.,

LONDON,

Messrs. Mallet Frères & Co.,

PARIS,

Messrs. Schröder & Co., J. H. Schröder & Co.,

HAMBURG,

Messrs. Joh. Berenberg, Gossler & Co.,

HAMBURG,

Messrs. Garmel Brown & Co.,

GENOA,

## BRASILIANISCHE BANK FÜR DEUTSCHLAND.

Established in Hamburg on 16th December 1887 by the "Direktion der Disconto Gesellschaft" in Berlin and the "Norddeutsche Bank in Hamburg," Hamburg.

Capital. . . 10,000,000 Marks.

BRANCH OFFICE IN RIO DE JANEIRO.

(Caixa 108.)

Branch-offices in São Paulo and Santos

(Caixa 500.) (Caixa 135.)

Draws on:

Germany: . . . (Direction der Disconto Gesellschaft, Berlin, Norddeutsche Bank in Hamburg, Hamburg, M. A. von Rothschild, Silbner, Frankfurt a. M.)

England: . . . (N. M. Rothschild & Sons, London, Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company, Limited, London, Union Bank of London, Limited, London, Wm. Brandt's Sons & Co., London.)

France: . . . (Crédit Lyonnais, Paris and branches, Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, Paris, Heine & Co., Paris, Lazard Frères & Co., Paris, André Neuhoff & Co., Paris.)

Portugal: . . . (Banco Lisbon e Açores and correspondents.)

and any other countries

Opens accounts current.

Pays interest on deposits for a certain time.

Executes orders for purchases and sales of stocks, shares, etc., and transacts every description of banking business.

Boetiger-Petersen,

Directors.

## THE LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK, LIMITED.

LONDON: Princes Street, E. C.

PARIS: 16, Rue Halévy.

Rio de Janeiro:

No. 20, Rua da Alfandega.

Authorized by Decree No. 59, of 19th October, 1891.

Subscribed capital. . . £ 1,500,000  
Realized do . . . 900,000  
Reserve fund . . . 950,000

BRANCHES:

Paris, 16, rue Halévy, Pernambuco, Pará, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Rosario and Paysandú.

DRAW ON:-

London and County Banking Co., Ld.—LONDON.  
Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas.—PARIS.  
Banco de Portugal and agencies.—PORTUGAL.  
And on all the chief cities of Europe.

Also on:

Brown Brothers & Co.—NEW YORK.  
First National Bank of Chicago.—CHICAGO.

## THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE: 2 A, MOORCATE ST. LONDON E. C.

Capital..... £ 1,000,000  
Idem paid up..... 800,000  
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From the New York Herald, Feb. 2.

## SIGHTS IN VENEZUELA.

Caracas, Venezuela, Jan. 21, 1896.

Customs and people differ so radically that it is difficult to make any comparison between Venezuela and the United States. What is perfectly proper in New York or Brooklyn would be an unpardonable offence in Caracas or Laguayra.

There would be no end to the sensation here if a young woman clad in bloomers rode a bicycle through the public streets unattended. To begin with, the bicycle itself is almost unknown in the hilly streets of the capital. I have seen a few men astride American safety wheels, but I could not imagine a woman being indifferent enough to public opinion to attempt anything of the kind. While horseback riding is the most popular recreation here for men, I have yet to see a lady ride in Caracas.

In fact, there are very few things that a woman may do here, except sit behind the bars of her window and languidly watch for something to pass. She must not venture out alone by day, and she must only receive company in the evening in the presence of her *hennna*. Her main outdoor exercise consists of a formal stroll in the plaza on music nights, always under the watchful eye of a *chaperon*. The result is that almost every woman in Caracas has a bad complexion.

Most of the young ladies are fond of brilliant colors and wear combinations that would make a New York girl shudder. Naturally dark, very many of them use unlimited quantities of face powder, touch up their cheeks with rouge and pencil their eyebrows. Hair pomade is excessively popular with them.

I am assured that face powder is imported in far greater bulk than baking powder, neither article being manufactured in Venezuela. North Americans generally agree that the women here would be infinitely more attractive to the eye if they left off their makeup, but as powder and paint are the custom of the country it would probably be impossible to make the girls believe this, and they go right ahead marring their faces.

The girl typewriter—who is an institution by herself in the United States—is absolutely unknown here. The number of typewriting machines in the republic is very small indeed, and practically all correspondence, official and commercial, is carried on by hand. No merchant and no lawyer could afford to have a girl to run a typewriter in his private office.

The whole city would be scandalized, and every tongue would wag if he attempted it. There are no girls employed in the public departments, and very few who earn their own livelihood, except in domestic service and other menial occupations. Woman's sphere here is practically limited to her home.

She seems, however, to have a little more liberty for exercise in Macuto, where I spent last Sunday, than in the capital. Macuto is the most fashionable seaside resort in the republic, and is just east of the port of Laguayra, with which it is connected by a little railroad. Caracas is high in the mountains and cool. Macuto and Laguayra are eternally hot, and the least exercise in the day time results in the most profuse perspiration.

The evenings are, however, comfortable. The crowd of pretty girls collected at the Macuto station when my train arrived was suggestive of a Catskill mountain resort in August. All wore dainty light costumes, and most of them were hatless. For an hour and a half after the late dinner the walk by the blue Caribbean was covered with merry-makers.

Gentle hills rise from the shore at Macuto, in place of the frowning mountains of Laguayra, and breezes that are unknown at the main seaport waft pleasantly over the neighboring resort. The plaza of the town, with a tumblodown fence and overgrown with the luxuriance of tropical plants, is really picturesque and pretty.

There is very little surf, and none of the fine white sand common in the north but unknown here. The waves break upon the base of the rocky hill with mild monotony.

There is no open sea bathing, but there is quite a nice bath house, with separate sides for men and women. This bathing establishment presents a round front toward the shore and looks like a papier mache tower. The top serves as the perpetual

resting place for innumerable pelicans—large brown birds with gigantic bills.

The pelicans seem to doze all the time except when they get hungry, when they lazily flap their wings and slip off their perch into the air. They skim the water until they catch sight of a fish, when they dart down, head first, with phenomenal rapidity. They very rarely miss their prey.

The back of the bath house is of cement and rises four or five feet above the surface of the water. Little crabs crawled nervously about, and half a dozen pelicans on the edge eyed me curiously while I was disporting myself in the water.

The main hotel of Macuto—the Casino—is a long, one story building on the eastern extremity of the town. It is very inviting looking from the exterior. The dining tables are all on the front piazza, behind rows of growing plants. To the right one sees high palm trees, almost all with their heads bending toward the sea.

After the heat of the day has passed the piazza of the Casino is very comfortable. I had no fault to find until the time came for me to retire. The beds of the Casino are not supplied with mattresses, the explanation made being that it would be too difficult to keep them clean. I found a canvas cot supplied with one sheet to lie on, and a flimsy piece of bright colored muslin for a cover.

The clerk of the hotel thought that I was too particular when I asked for a second sheet. The straw pillow was as hard as a rock and the constant buzzing of insects attracted by my candle was not conducive to sleep.

Many of the barracks of Caracas are in a more or less dilapidated condition, but I have never known soldiers to be permanently housed quite so wretchedly as some I saw in Laguayra. There are two forts perched high in the mountains overlooking the port, and in one of the winding streets of the town is a building that is supposed to shelter several companies of soldiers.

It was originally intended to have two stories, but whether it was never completed or the flooring and roof have fallen in, I do not know. The walls and partitions stand, but there is nothing between the ground and the blue sky, and not a stick of furniture for the comfort of the occupants. The midday sun was pouring shafts of fire upon Laguayra and the streets were well nigh deserted when I approached the barracks.

The sentries outside, wearing little caps, coarse cotton jackets and trousers, but no shoes, looked very uncomfortable, and with their heavy guns in their arms. I went inside and found that wherever the walls afforded shade soldiers were stretched on the ground napping. All the men were short, hardy and of unmistakably Indian origin.

They can live on little or nothing; they are able to withstand any climate, and they are born fighters. I believe that nothing would please the rank and file of the Venezuelan army quite as much as a war with England.

The patriotic feeling of the people is demonstrated on every hand and one hears many amusing instances of the prevailing sentiment. The other day a friend of mine, a thorough American, rather inclined to jingoism, stopped a newsboy in the street who had been shouting:—"Extra! Americans have defeated the English!"

My friend glanced at the paper, found that it contained nothing to even suggest the boy's announcement, and so said:—"You must not cry out false news."

"Well, the Americans will lick them," replied the wretch. "You are nothing but an Englishman and you haven't enough sense of shame to conceal it."

An English commercial traveller was recently driven out of Maracaibo by the taunts of the populace. The small boys of the town had combined to make his life miserable and whenever he appeared in public he was greeted with jeers and taunts. He could not leave his hotel without hearing yells of defiance, the streets were lined with tormentors and the plaza contained a howling mob whenever he attempted to pass. He stood it as long as he could and then he packed his trunk and escaped to the interior.

An immense bull ring in course of construction here will be formally opened in February. Until then sport loving Caracans must content themselves with bull baiting in the streets of neighboring

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### THE GROWTH OF AMBER.

The animals of the amber period, and of the Oligocene generally, were not very different from the tropical animals of our own dispensation. Many familiar genera had already developed, even among mammals; such are the moles, the musk-rats, the shrews, the tapirs, the rhinoceroses, the civets, and perhaps the dogs. The horses had only begun to exist in small ancestral types, with "points" which nobody in New-market would recognise as equine; deer and cattle were unknown; and if any progenitor of the human race yet existed, it was merely in the form of some anthropoid ape, just capable of wielding a dubious club and of fashioning flint into the rudest and coarsest of hand implements. As a whole, the Oligocene was an age of pachyderms, predecessors of the mammoth, the mastodon, and the elephant. It was destitute of the horned ruminants, and of the larger carnivores, which now form the dominant groups in most grassy and forest-clad regions. Such, in general aspect, was the world where amber originated. The precious gum itself flowed as resin from the pines which towered among the woodlands of the lignite beds, and especially from one tree which is scientifically known as the amber-fir. Oozing from the trees as they grew, or from injured boughs and fallen trunks, it got imbedded in the ground at their feet, in a layer of greenish sand, some six feet thick, which formed the original base of the lignite forest. Hence, at the present day, it is found in lumps in this bed of sand, at or below sea level, while above it lie the layers of lignite and lignite-bearing sandstone, with yew wood and cinnamon leaves, which represent the remains of the ancient woodland. As the turpentine oozed out, it frequently happened that flies, centipedes, and other creeping creatures got clogged and stogged in it, as is often the case to this day in our own pine-woods. The remains of these insects form the "flies in amber" about which so much has been said and written. I am sure the long-suffering reader will admire the self-control with which I refrain from inflicting upon him the most wearisome of stock quotations. As a rule, the insects have struggled hard for life, after getting stuck in the resin, as one can see by their torn wings and the contortions of their members; so that we get, as it were, the whole history of a prehistoric Pompeii on a small scale reproduced before our eyes after the lapse of a thousand ages. But sometimes the resin poured out so fast that the animal was enshrined in it almost before he knew it; and then we get the most delicate wings embalmed intact, with all their veins and branches, in the transparent material. Insects undergo modification much more slowly than the higher animals, so that most of the "flies in amber," as well as the scorpions and spiders, belong to types still represented among us. Some of them, however, differ from existing kinds, while a few are interesting from the point of view of evolution, because they display intermediate or parental forms, half way between two or more existing species. For instance, in Northern Europe now we have two related ants, one of which is small and yellowish brown, while the other is decidedly larger and blacker. In the amber we get neither of these two types, but a common ancestor, just half way between them, bigger and blacker than the one, smaller and yellower than the other.

At the present day the supply of amber is chiefly obtained from the dreary and desolate region of Samland, on the eastern Baltic, a strange weird land of blowing sand, shifting sand-dunes, and poverty-stricken amber-hunters. It is a cold northern Sahara. The district produces absolutely nothing but amber; vegetation it has none, and from Königsberg, its capital, to the end of the promontory scarcely anything subsists that a man could live upon. Its trade is all retrospective and geological. It lives upon the memory of its Oligocene fertility. Most of the amber is obtained after stormy weather by men who wade in the water with long hooks in their hands, and secure the lumps, torn up from the submarine beds, among the floating seaweed. But a considerable portion is also got by diving. For the beds are almost all below sea-level, and it is only after heavy storms that the precious resin is dislodged in any quantities. No wonder it seemed to earlier ages a gift from the gods, very mystic, and magical. Königsberg and Memel are the centres of the export traffic. The biggest

lumps go direct to Constantinople, Mecca, and North Africa, partly to be used up in Mohammedan ceremonies and partly to be carved into cigarette-holders, pipe-stems, and personal ornaments. The smaller pieces are sent to Italy, where they are manufactured into beads and other gewgaws for the annoyance of tourists. The lumps vary in size; there is one in the Berlin Museum which weighs fifteen pounds. At first sight the ingenious observer is apt to think the pine trees of our days produce such masses of resin. But then he should remember he is comparing a few hundred years of our cleared and stunted Europe with heaven knows how many ages of unbroken forest, and heaven knows what big groves of gigantic pine trees. It yields an oil which is the basis of *eau de luce*, a famous old perfume; and by mixing *eau de luce* with nitric acid artificial musk is cunningly manufactured. Amber varnish, again, is a celebrated preservative; and it is said that Stradivari's and other Cremona violins owe to its use their fine tone and their long power of endurance. I need hardly add that the science of electricity owes its very origin to the working of amber, in the course of shaping and polishing which a large amount of electric energy is generated. But is it not curious to think that the power which is now just on the point of revolutionising the world should thus have become known to us first of all through the act of preparing barbaric gewgaws? In everything civilisation is based upon savagery. Our commerce is barter for two shining metals; our chemistry is an outcome of alchemy and magic.

### PLANTS THAT GIVE LIGHT.

One of the early naturalists, Mme. Merian, I think, describes an extraordinary spectacle which she observed in Asia. Her party was moving through a forest at night, when, without warning, a large light appeared. At first dim, it increased in size, growing larger and larger until finally a tree was outlined in a soft pulsating light. The natives were demoralized, and refused to approach it, saying it was the sacred tree of fire. But the naturalist had little faith in trees of fire and investigated it, finding that the light was due to certain insects, which, by the way, have never been observed since. That a tree or plant could give light was deemed a figure of the imagination, yet to-day it is known that light-giving plants are not uncommon, and among the most striking and remarkable of natural phenomena. Once in returning from a day's hunt through a deep forest in the heart of the Adirondack region I stumbled against a dead limb of a tree, when, to my amazement, I was at once surrounded by a silvery light that flew in all directions, like darts and arrows of fire, each piece burning where it lay. This was an unusually brilliant display of the best known of luminous plants, the "fox fire," or "witches' glow" of childhood days.

To the layman it is often mysterious, as investigation shows nothing but the decayed wood, and sometimes a soft pulpy mass. The botanist will soon point out the light giver in the mycelium of some fungus that has permeated the old branch and fairly taken possession of it, converting it into a glorious spectacle when disturbed. The vividness of the light may be estimated when it is known that print can often be read by it, and the light of some has been known to penetrate through several thickness of paper. Singular to say, the smallest plant is often the means of producing the greatest luminous effects. This is the diatom, which the naturalist of the *Challenger* found floating in the ocean in vast numbers, and as the nucleus of the diatom is often brilliantly phosphorescent some of the most remarkable displays of light observed by the naturalists were occasioned by these little plants. But what shall we say to a sight observed by a Norwegian bark in the Bay of Funchal? The waters here are fairly alive with these little luminous plants the year round, and on the occasion referred to a waterspout formed among them. During the day it would have attracted little attention, as the phenomenon is a common one, but the crew of the ship were suddenly confronted at night by a literal pillar of fire or light that extended upward to a distance seemingly of one thousand feet and moved along with a decided bend. It emitted a pale yellow light that stood out in strong relief against the black night, a weird and formidable spectacle, rushing on before the wind.



An English naturalist, wishing to astonish some natives in a wild part of Asia in which he was travelling and impress them with his supernatural powers, secured a certain vine known as Euphorbia phosphorea, and, rubbing it upon a big rock, caused the latter to gleam with flame, and present so remarkable a spectacle that the natives ran, believing that he had set the rock afire by simply touching it. The naturalist was aware that the milky juice of this plant, that resembled the dandelion, was brilliantly phosphorescent. In the Harz mountains there has been for ages a cave known as the haunted cavern. An Englishman, traveling in the vicinity and hearing of it, determined to investigate the mystery. After a long climb he reached the cave. No sooner did complete darkness set in than the phantom of the cave appeared—a remarkable semblance to a human form, with arms outspread outlined against the gloom. Making his way to the figure that had alarmed so many wayfarers, he found that it was a plant that grew upon the wall. It was the well known phosphorescent fungus, Rhizomopha subterranea, frequently found in caves, and familiar to miners. Its light is often so vivid that people have read by it.

These curious lights are not found in the tropics alone. Some years ago Mr. Morrill, editor of the Gardiner (Me.) Journal, wrote me that he had observed a brilliant steady light in his garden at times, totally unaccounted for by mechanical contrivance, and which upon investigation, proved to be the phosphorescent light emitted by the young of plant Tians Sydictes. Perhaps the most startling exhibition was observed several years ago by an English traveler in Borneo. Belated, he was overtaken by night, and there being no moon, he was fearful of losing his way, when as the darkness came on, singular lights appeared here and there in the bushes and by the roadside. Some were yellow; others burned, or seemed to, with a bright greenish hue. As it grew darker, the blaze of light increased, and finally the traveller was amazed to find that he was passing through lines of luminous bush which emitted light so wondrously brilliant that he could read his newspaper by it with perfect ease. The principal light-giving plant, mechanical in its growth rather than botanic, is the electric light plant, thousands of which are scattered through the country. The fruit of the electric light plant are commonly known as electric currents.

#### THE GUIA QUESTION.

Rio de Janeiro, 22nd May, 1896.  
The Editor of "The Rio News."

Sir,—Complying with your invitation I shall endeavour to make clear where and how the planter benefits by the proposed scheme, which explanation I would gladly have given at an earlier stage in this discussion, had you suggested it.

The commissario pays the 1½% duty on account of the planter, debiting the amount in account-sales of the coffee, and crediting *per contra* the approximate market value of the guia, which shows, as a rule, a loss of from 30 to 40%. By the projected system the discount will be reduced at once to 10%, and when, by the application of part of this discount, the outlay in superabundant guias has been amortized, the discount will be further reduced to 5%.

I do not propose to dispute that the purchaser may pay more for the coffee when he buys the guias cheaper. What, however, is very certain is that the reduction effected in the "cost on board" by the discount on the guias is much less than the discount at which the planter gets credited for the guias. The difference is shared between commissarios, exporters, and middlemen, the last mentioned class getting a handsome share.

It is notorious that a few substantial fortunes have been realized in this business; and that the interested parties still find it profitable is proved by their unbecoming reluctance in leaving it.

The commissarios' profit under present system is to a certain extent legitimate, because, as he credits the guia before it can be sold, he has to deduct enough to cover the risk of fall, as well as interest on his outlay, erring, of course, as a rule, on the safe side. Besides this profit he gets 3% commission on the sale of the guia, which he will hardly propose to charge on its prompt liquidation by the bank. Still, the sacrifice by the commissarios of these profits will probably be more than compensated by the

placing of their customers on such an improved footing that they will have less inducement to sell their coffee up country, or to divert it to Santos and Victoria, when they have these alternatives. Probably it is in view of these comparisons that you see the advantage to the commissario in the proposed plan. Its advantages to the planter lie in the substitution of the various intermediary profits by one fixed moderate discount, to be eventually further reduced also in the transfer from him to the exporter of a large portion of the tax at present paid directly by the planter. And, of course, an indirect tax, besides being more agreeable, is also less certain in its incidence.

The planters have not been slow to recognize the advantages to them in the project, and, as you know, "mais sabo o tolo do seu que o sabio do alio."

A good, useful proverb!

Let it stand as my excuse for venturing to call in question one or two of your deliverances anent this matter.

I am,

Yours truly,

W. NEWLANDS, JR.

And now, will Mr. Newlands permit us another question. The tax, as collected, is really a tax on production, for it covers the coffee consumed in this capital as well as that exported. Provision was made to deduct a certain percentage from the guias to cover this local consumption, but notwithstanding this they are accumulating. What is the reason? Are there counterfeiters out, or is the local consumption underestimated? And how is this surplus to be withdrawn? Besides that, is it proposed to make the exporter (poor devil!) pay the tax on this local consumption, and if not, how is the matter to be adjusted between the planter and commissario?—Ed. News.

#### THE REVERSE SIDE.

It is doubtless extremely satisfactory to the promoters of the Newlands-Pleura de Sampaio scheme to receive the plaudits of their country cousins, the fazendeiros. They figure too as good advertisements in the "a pedidos" of the *Jornal do Commercio*. In fact the scheme is undertaking a species of propaganda in its own behalf.

From the fazendeiros' point of view the aspect of the prospectus is enticing, is meant to be enticing; but, if they have not forgotten all their Latin, "timeo Danaos et dona ferentes." The project in itself is a great reflection on the government of this country. Why should private individuals have any such right as that of collecting a public tax? Why should they be able to do it better?

To think that their project is purely philanthropic is childish. It would give them very great power which would be felt once the monopoly is established. The purchase and sale of guias would be on the basis of the "pauta," which is subject to a change every week. The adjustment of this "pauta" has been rather a sore subject for years, and if the guia business, the most important tax of the republic, goes into private hands, there seems just a suggestion that a little wire-pulling might supervene with regard to that same "pauta."

Finally, if the representatives of the nation cannot do their business without the help of private enterprise, in heaven's name let the bucolic members of the community send down men who can. If the guia scheme be good for the country, why not allow another syndicate (foreign, if the *brio* of the country will stand that also), to collect the inward duties and generally look after the business of the republic, and then the ministers and worthy representatives could all retire to their respective fazendas and plant coffee, or other things.

Rio, 25th May, 1896. X. Y. Z.

#### CORNELL'S LIBRARY.

Cornell University library has just secured another extensive collection of books, this time on South America. It was gathered mainly during his eight years' residence in Brazil by a former Cornell student, Herbert H. Smith, well known in the scientific world as an explorer and an entomological collector, and the author of one of the best modern works on the natural and sociological features of Brazil.

The collection numbers about 700 volumes and 800 pamphlets. It includes such important sets as the "Revista do Instituto Historico do Brazil," "The Revista Brasileira," and the "Annes do Bibliotheca Nacional." Works of travel both early and recent are fully represented, and, though the majority of the books deal more especially with Brazil, there are not a few relating to Guiana and Venezuela, as, for instance, Schomburgk's description of British Guiana, Dalton's "History of British Guiana," Eastwick's "Venezuela," &c. The

collection is especially valuable because it contains so many books and pamphlets published in South America which very seldom appear in the markets of this country or Europe.

It is stated by a competent judge that three-fourths of the South American pamphlets in this collection are not to be found in any library. Copies of a general collection of books cost over 400,000 volumes. This latest acquisition was purchased from the Henry W. Sage endowment fund.—*New York Times*, April 17.

#### ANTIQUITY OF SOAP.

Soap is not a modern invention. It is twice mentioned in the Bible, first in Jeremiah and again in Malachi. History tells us that more than two thousand years ago the Gauls manufactured it by combining heated tree ashes with goat's fat. A few years ago a soap boiler's shop was discovered in Pompeii, having been buried beneath the terrible rain of ashes that fell upon that city in 79 A. D. The soap found in the shop had not lost all of its efficacy, although it had been buried 1,800 years. At the time that Pompeii was destroyed the soap-making business was carried on in several of the Italian cities. Pliny the Elder speaks of soap, and the reason why it was so highly valued in antiquity was, among other things, of glutinous earth and fine sand mixed in the juice of certain plants that made lather. As early as 700 A. D. there were many soap factories in both Italy and Spain, and about 750 A. D. the Phoenicians introduced the business into France, the first factories being established at Marseilles.—*Philadelphia Times*.

#### TRANSPORTATION AND SOUTH AMERICA.

The bureau of statistics has issued a supplementary volume of commercial statistics, showing imports and exports for five years. Among other things shown in this volume it is interesting to observe that in the fiscal year 1895 a steamer cleared from an American port for a port in the Argentine Republic a little oftener than once in ten days, and about five sailing vessels cleared for the same ports every fortnight. The steam and sail tonnage, domestic and foreign, which cleared from American for Argentine ports, increased from 85,735 in 1891 to 155,420 in 1895. To Brazil two steamers a week cleared, an increase over any one of the four previous years, and the total tonnage cleared from American for Brazilian ports in 1895 was 269,601, a quantity much in excess of the year 1894 and in excess of the other four previous years except 1892, when it was a little greater than in 1895. But the number of steamers that cleared in 1895 was five greater than the number in 1892. The tonnage cleared for Chilean ports was greater in 1895 than in 1891 or 1894, but it was less than in 1892 and 1893. The steamers that cleared from American for Colombian ports on the Caribbean sea increased from more than two a week in 1891 to more than five a week in 1895, and the tonnage, sail and steam, domestic and foreign, cleared from American for Colombian ports on the Caribbean sea increased from 140,118 in 1891 to 220,394 in 1895. The tonnage cleared for Venezuelan ports has shown some falling off, but nearly that under foreign flags. The American steam tonnage cleared for Venezuelan ports increased from less than 60,000 in 1891 to more than 73,000 in 1894, but in 1895 fell just below 60,000 again.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce*, April 17.

#### CITY OF SANTOS IMPROVEMENTS.

At the fifteenth annual general meeting of the City of Santos Improvements Co., held in London on the 27th ult., the chairman, Mr. D. M. Fox, who is now here in Brazil on business connected with the S. Paulo railway, discussed the situation of that company's affairs in the following words: In spite of this 10 per cent. depreciation in the currency of Brazil—with which we are paid exclusively for our water, and partially for gas—we have the satisfaction of being able to recommend you a 5 per cent. dividend instead of a 3 per cent. for the previous two years, and the broad result of the year's working is that, after payment of all charges, depreciation and exchange, and providing for all contingencies, we have an available balance for the year of £5,663 7s. 11d., as against an available balance of £3,499 18s. 6d. in the previous year, or an increase of £2,164. I need not say now more than this to show you the reason we contemplate on the improved prospects of the company. Of course a 5 per cent. dividend is not a 7 per cent. dividend, and when we talk about our preferred shares as being preferred 7 per cent. we get it into our heads that we shall have 7 per cent. For many years, as you know, we did pay 7 per cent. to both preferred and deferred shares, but that, of course, was under very different conditions, and no one could have dreamt that over the time would arrive that exchange of the par value of 27d. would ever drop to such a figure as 9d. However, it is almost as useless as "crying over spilt milk" to talk about what might have been, and what the prospects of this company would have been supposing the exchange had been at anything like a normal rate. However, to give you some idea of what it would have been, we should have been able to pay, not 7 to 10 per cent. preferred and deferred shareholders, but an even larger dividend, to have created a formidable reserve fund, and also to have carried on further extensions without appealing to you for further capital. When I addressed you last year, I said I was not going to do anything so foolish as to propose about exchange. However, this year I think it would not be rash—having consulted with those who know something about the business—to say that the prospects are in favour of an appreciable rise in the exchange. Of course that will improve our prospects very much. You will see from our report that our business is extending very satisfactorily. I will now refer to the paragraph as to Mr. Heyland's visit to Santos, and how I terminated. Mr. Heyland, our former manager, went with instructions to obtain a revision of the contract for the supply of water, and he endeavoured to get our price regulated in some way according to the rate of exchange. Unfortunately the state of things which existed when he got there was such that the *camara*, for one reason or another, became defiant, and did not sit. The gov-

ernment is very anxious about the sanitary state of Santos. As you all know Santos is the seaport of the important province of San Paulo, through which all exports and imports pass, and you all know that it has had a notorious bad name for unhealthiness, and no wonder considering what the place used to be. Now, however, since the construction of its magnificent sea-wall, the whole of the foreshore has been constructed into an embankment almost as fine as our own Thames embankment, and all the mud has disappeared. I am told that in the interior of the province of San Paulo there is a convulsive sickness, Santos, from all accounts, is practically the healthiest place in the whole province. I have been told by some Brazilian merchants, who visit all the ports, that Santos is the first port on each coast of South America. Now we are all interested in Santos, and the prosperity of Santos means our prosperity. The government are naturally anxious to complete the work they have undertaken at Santos in the way of quays by a complete and efficient system of drainage. The position of affairs is this. The drainage has been undertaken by a local company, and they have laid in their undertaking, and the government now have valued and taken over this drainage works, and now we are in treaty with them that we should supply the water for flushing and cleansing purposes. We wish to do so under a direct contract with the government, in addition to the contract with the *camara*. You will readily understand that when negotiations are on foot it is better not to enter into details; suffice it to say that the negotiations are in the hands of most competent and efficient gentlemen, and we are confidently anticipating a successful issue in due time. In addition to this we sent out an eminent engineer to make a report, and I may say, and I speak with emphasis on this point, that we, as a company, are prepared, and shall be able at a proper time to raise such money as may be required to do all that is required by the government for the drainage purposes of Santos, in addition to the house to house supply, provided we obtain from them something like fair an equitable rates for our water supply. We are in a position to render this material help to the government of San Paulo, which is anxious, and not at all vainly anxious, and rightly anxious, to place Santos in a state of as perfect healthiness as possible. It is the very gate of the province; though it has hundreds of thousands of tons of exports a year, of a yearly value of something like 15 millions, with a corresponding amount of imports. We can help them, and we will help them to do so, and we feel sure that with this assistance, and with the present relations we are on with the government of San Paulo, that when the time comes, we shall have everything arranged. But these things take time, and we must have patience.

#### RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

—At the last general meeting of the subscribers to the British Hospital at Buenos Aires, it was shown that the total receipts in 1895 were \$10,766 gold and \$85,388 paper, while the expenditures were \$7,861 gold and \$93,065 paper. The number of patients treated in the hospital was 1,191, whose aggregate residence was 26,526 patient-days. The average cost of treatment was \$4.45 paper per patient. The number of out-patients treated was 2,245.

—It is a source of perpetual wonder how the municipality contrives to get along, and not only so, but to hand out into the world an enormous sum, although its credits are almost nil, and its assets are large. Yet it is well to remember that Buenos Aires is a very heavily taxed city. We read in a contemporary that Paris is the only other great city which is more heavily taxed, the rates being, Buenos Aires, 64.24 francs per head, Paris, 77.30. We infer also that as various of our taxes are not adjusted with reference to the quotation of gold, a fall in the gold premium would speedily put us on a level with Paris. The actual debt of the city amounts to 226 francs per head, a ratio only exceeded by three of the great European cities, and here again the currency question leaves us involved in all manner of difficulties in the way of an exact estimate.—*Review*, Buenos Aires.

—The municipal council of Rosario has made an offer, with a view to a settlement of its city loan, which has now been so long in default. In 1893 the council offered to pay the 6 per cent. interest in currency up to 1900, when the service was to be resumed in gold, and to fund the overdue coupons into six per cent. currency bonds. This was not particularly liberal, yet it was nevertheless accepted by the bondholders; but was never carried out, the usual revolution intervening. Now the council has the hardihood to propose payment to its creditors of 6 per cent. interest in currency until 1910, and to give 50 per cent. of the overdue coupons in currency bonds. Of course the proposal has been declined. M. Robert, the bondholders' agent at Buenos Aires, has been so instructed by telegram. In view of the improvement in the conditions of the republic it would be absurd to accept worse terms than Rosario was willing to give three years ago.—*South American Journal*, May 2.

—After another somewhat lengthened discussion, the municipality has again referred to a sub-committee the question of leasing part of the Casarita to a syndicate, whose object it is to erect niches suitable for the tenancy of a superior class of corpses. Out of this they do not doubt hope to make a handsome profit. The Recoleta is unconformably crowded, and the syndicate would provide accommodation for those who do not care to rub shoulders with the common folk in the burying ground. It is rather a grim business, to be sure, and it seems peculiarly onerous which the municipality ought to keep in its own hands; moreover, the sanitary aspect of the question ought not to be overlooked. If we cannot have cremation, earth burial seems a preferable mode of disposal of the dead to interment in niches, no matter how carefully these may be constructed. But here again, we should be a grim business, to be sure, and it seems peculiarly onerous which the municipality should have in those of a syndicate; and the entrusting of such work to a syndicate or company is by no means an innovation.—*Review*, Buenos Aires.

At S. Leopoldo the prosecuting attorney, assisted by the commander of the municipal guard, a

rested the director of the Catholic college and two other priests who are professors in that establishment. The cause alleged for this arrest is that the college teaches doctrines subversive of the institutions of the country. The action of the prosecuting attorney and of the commander of the municipal guard has excited much indignation. The municipal intendente of Porto Alegre, who is the latter's father, has deposed him of his office, and it is stated that the prosecuting attorney will be removed to another district and prosecuted.

Julio de Castilhos, for reasons not stated, has dissolved the judge of Jaguariá, who has published an individual picture.

On the 15th inst. in the city of Rio Grande there was a fight between Mariano Porto, editor of the *Atleta*, and João José Carras, correspondent of the *Jornal do Brasil*. The former had published an article against Carras, who, meeting him on the street, struck him with his cane. Mariano drew his revolver, but was unable to discharge it. He afterwards sent a challenge to Carras, who declined to accept it.

Quite a sensation has been caused by the *Scholar*, an ultra-catholista journal, whose first number made its appearance on the 22nd inst. This paper violently attacks both President Prudente de Moraes and the commander of the military district, Gen. Castilhos. The former, it says, is a traitor, in whose baronial influence Castilhos, showing himself worthy of the confidence reposed in him by Prudente, is stimulated to put an end. Castilhos, it asserts, is a puppet of the monarchists, whom Prudente never trusted and whom he caused to be watched.

## RAILROAD NOTES

The 1895 dividend of the Natal a Nova Cruz railway has been declared at the rate of 5 per cent. after setting aside £11,800 for the redemption of debentures, and £1,309 19s. 5d. for the new year. The traffic of the line is said to be increasing.

The directors of the Ponta Preta Christina railway have declared an interim dividend on the preferred shares of the company for the six months ended December 31 last of 4s. per share, being at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, less income-tax.

The Baldwin Locomotive Works closed another contract with the Russian government last month, agreeing to build six large freight locomotives and have them completed by July 1st. This will make 134 locomotives built for Russia since October last by this factory.

During the year 1895 the Porto Alegre and New Hamburg line carried 74,282 passengers and 22,552 tons of freight. The gross earnings were £352,195\$400, and the expenditures 270,222\$850. The earnings per mile were 13,166\$163, against 5,273\$095 in 1894. The dividend paid was 5s. per share on the preferred stock for the half year ending 31st December last.

A decree was signed by the state government of São Paulo on the 21st inst. conceding permission to the Mogiana company to construct a branch line from Sorocaba to Santa Rita do Paraiso, passing through Espírito Santo de Batatas and Cana do Frango. The estimated cost is 4,461,075, and the company must initiate the work within one year and complete it within two years.

On Sunday, at 6 o'clock a.m., at Cascadura, a ballast train loaded with rails ran into a locomotive, causing the death of a fireman and another man, wounding one of the engine-drivers and a switchman, interrupting traffic on the road until noon and damaging both locomotives. It is becoming apparent that the only remedy against these accidents is to punish negligent employees with the greatest severity for the accidents caused by them.

## LOCAL NOTES

The reporters of the press of this city are engaged in organizing a club.

The municipal council has reduced from 24 to 12 1/2 % the tax on the building of the Club de Engenharia.

The inspector-general of public works estimates the daily water supply of this city at 114,000,000 litres, or an average of 233 litres for every inhabitant.

The Barão do Lulário wants the opinion of the senate finance committee on the grant of 200,000 to Admiral Gonçalves, to be repaid in the *Diário Oficial*.

During the illness of Dr. Paula Freitas, vice-director of Polytechnic school, that establishment is in charge of Dr. Americo Martins de Barros, dean of the faculty.

There have recently been several fights in this city between marines and policemen. On Sunday evening a considerable body of men on each side was engaged and firearms were freely used.

The minister of war says that the army should be thoroughly reorganised and that both the material and the personnel should be almost entirely renovated. We can fully agree with the minister.

On Friday last José Chien Azar, an Arab, complained to the police that he had been robbed by one of his countrymen of 14,000 in money, 1,000 in jewelry and a promissory note for £1,000.

Last year there were registered in the federal district 2,899 marriages and 16,466 births. Of the children born 8,354 were males and 8,112 females. The deaths in the city numbered 1,760 more than the births.

It is stated that Col. Souza Aguiar, director-general of telegraphs, has withdrawn his resignation, which he had tendered on account of the dismissal of Major Guillon, who had charge of the telegraphs in Rio Grande.

At a meeting of Paraná and Santa Catharina congressmen, held in this city on Saturday, it was decided to recommend to the governments of the two states conciliatory action on the boundary question and the maintenance of the *status quo* for the present.

The value of the property left by the late Senator Christiano Ottoni is estimated at 200,000\$000.

We understand that owing to the exaggerated costs of living in this capital, the stipend of 758 a day, say 1,950\$ a month, is sufficient to carry some of the deputies through but little more than half the month. Of course the attractions of the capital consume a goodly part of this income.

On Wednesday last mass was said at the Rosário church for João do Sero Azul and other victims of the horrible murder committed in 1894 at Lacerdade 65 on the night of the railway by a military detachment belonging to the army commanded by Gen. Everson Quadros in the service of the government of Marshal Floriano Peixoto.

On last Tuesday the owner of the butcher shop at No. 2 A Rua do Assembléa complained to the police that the sum of 9,000\$ had disappeared from his safe, which however presented no signs of having been broken open. He had put 11,000\$ into the safe, but on afterwards examining the money found that there was only 2,000\$ remaining.

On last Tuesday students of the Polytechnic school addressed a petition to the minister of interior asking for an investigation of what recently occurred in that establishment. On Wednesday a committee of the students called on the President, who, after hearing what they had to say, promised to investigate the matter and to decide the case in strict conformity with the demands of justice.

On the 17th inst. some police officials of this capital went on board the *Danube* and arrested Dr. Antonio Molinari Laurin, formerly agent of the New York Life Insurance Co. in Pernambuco, who is accused of appropriating the funds of that company. His arrest was attempted in Pernambuco about a month ago, but he succeeded in escaping. He was on his way to Montevideo, but will now return to Pernambuco.

According to a recent report there were last year, in the federal district of Rio de Janeiro, 57 homicides, 30 homicidal attempts, 380 cases of theft and robbery, 45 suicides, 229 accidents causing death, 108 accidents causing serious injuries and 181 causing slight injuries. 70 fires, 48 sudden deaths in public thoroughfares, 38 newly born children found abandoned, and 56 bodies of drowned persons found on the beach.

The faculty of the Polytechnic school met on the 15th inst. and decided to ask the government to proceed to an investigation of the occurrence which have taken place at that school and to keep the establishment closed until the investigation has been concluded. It also decided to exclude from all public establishments of superior instruction two of the students implicated in the disturbances, to sentence two to the loss of four years' time, and 12 to the loss of two years' time.

There was a big row at the detenção on the morning of the 18th, the prisoners being dissatisfied with their food. They threw their little loaves of bread all over the place and threatened violence. It was found that their loaves of bread were of a little smaller than the regulation weight. As the bread is baked at the correction, an inquiry is to be made. Of course Col. Farias, the director of the tunnell, two loaves were given in place of one, and then there was peace and plenty. The detenção had 481 prisoners, of which 50 were women, and the hubbub they created was enough to raise the files.

On Wednesday the Supreme Court, to which Col. José Ignacio da Trindade Filho had applied for a writ of habeas corpus, decided that the prisoner must be presented at that court on the 17th prox. at half past 10 o'clock a.m., and that the district judge of Passo Fundo must give his reasons for ordering the arrest. The alleged cause of Col. Trindade's arrest is his having killed Col. Chieuten in June, 1892. The latter took part in the revolutionary movement, secretly aided by the government of Marshal Floriano Peixoto, for overthrowing the state government of Rio Grande then in the hands of Visconde de Pelotas. Col. Trindade refused this movement and in the struggle which ensued at Passo Fundo Col. Chieuten was killed. In defiance of the writ of Aug. 23 and of the amnesty law of Oct. 21 Trindade was recently arrested by order of the district judge of Passo Fundo.

According to the report of the minister of interior, there were 18,226 deaths in this city during the year 1895. Of these 1,865 were caused by small-pox and 818 by yellow-fever. The deaths from these two diseases by months were as follows:

	small-pox	yellow-fever
January.....	16	27
February.....	26	41
March.....	19	86
April.....	28	141
May.....	21	104
June.....	73	77
July.....	183	51
August.....	331	29
September.....	395	23
October.....	404	17
November.....	223	56
December.....	150	166

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Memoria presented to the municipal council of this city in support of a proposal made by an Anglo-Brazilian syndicate for the sanitation of the city. The scheme proposed is that of sub-soil drainage and a new sewage system. The author ascribes our yellow-fever epidemics to these sources.

*Relatório do Hospital Evangelico Fluminense* for 1895. As stated in a preceding number the net receipts of the past year were 5,378\$370, which raises the patrimony of the hospital to 53,219\$780, including the ground purchased some two years ago. As the funds of the society are not yet sufficient to warrant building, Sr. José Luiz Fernandes Braga has offered the free use of a building in S. Francisco Xavier for two years as a provisional hospital, which offer has been accepted. This will undoubtedly prove a great stimulus in promoting the interests of the hospital.

## THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

The meeting at the British Consulate-General on Saturday last was very large; over two hundred persons attended.

Amongst the early arrivals were a number of British shipmasters, two of them accompanied by their wives. The first toast given was "The Queen—God bless her." Enthusiastic cheers followed and one of the masters responded. The captains then sang the national hymn.

The second toast proposed by Mr. Wagstaff was "Prosperity to the British Colony at Rio." Mr. Mackenzie, the chaplain, replied and later on Mr. Mackenzie also addressed the meeting and thanked Mr. and Mrs. Wagstaff for affording the colony an opportunity of meeting together.

The Consul-General in replying to this third speech remarked that the prosperity of the British Colony depended on the welfare of the country in which they lived, and he felt sure that all present would join him in the toast: "Prosperity to Brazil." This was done with much cheering.

In concluding his address Mr. Wagstaff called attention to the fact that there were several persons present who were not British subjects and in thanking them for their attendance he proposed the health of Mr. Townes, the American Consul-General, who replied in eulogistic terms of Queen Victoria and her long and beneficent reign.

Amongst the visitors was noticed Viscount Barbacena who stated that he had been present at the coronation of George IV. The meeting at the Consulate-General was of a most enthusiastic and spirited character.

The British vessels "dressed ship" for the occasion and the port had quite a gay appearance.

Her Majesty's Consul-General in presenting his compliments begs to thank all who attended at the Consulate on Saturday last, on the occasion of celebrating the Queen's birthday, as he regrets being unable to thank personally all who called on him on that day.

Monday, 25th May, 1896.

## COFFEE NOTES

The coffee crop of this year on the celebrated Diamant plantation, São Paulo, is estimated at 300,000 arrobas, say 9,000,000 pounds.

This year's coffee crop in the municipality of Doreas do Indaiá, Minas Geraes, is estimated at 400,000 arrobas.

## BUSINESS NOTES

A Montevideo telegram of the 19th says the Uruguayan postoffice is seeking to arrange a parcel post exchange with Brazil and Chili.

The state government of São Paulo has approved the estimates of 1,303,662\$155 for the new water-works of S. Carlos do Pinhal.

The Empresa Viagem Ferreira e Fluvial do Araguaia is said to have obtained from the state government of Pará a loan of 2,700,000\$.

It is stated that the Amazon Steam Navigation Co. will shortly receive from Europe four new steamers, the *Gauipiré*, *Sapucaia*, *Barcellos* and *Gaviota*.

The court of appeals has decided that the bankrupt estate of Conde de Leopoldina must pay to the Companhia União Industrial S. Sebastião the sum of 2,329,878\$822.

The sales of canned goods manufactured by the Companhia Manufactureira de Conservas Alimenticias amounted to 451,084\$822 in 1895, to 691,766\$470 in 1894 and to 801,606\$670 in 1893.

The quantity of tea, coffee and sugar imported into Canada during the fiscal year 1895 was: Tea 20,610,733 pounds, duty \$6,132; coffee 2,433,470 pounds, duty \$7,464; sugar 354,707,312 pounds, duty 244,544.

The Piracema (S. Paulo) sugar factory will this year produce about 25,000 bags of sugar. It was expected that the out-turn would be from 30,000 to 35,000 bags, but the cane fields were much injured by drought.

It is stated that in Maranhão the Welshach incandescent light has given much satisfaction and that the agents have received many orders and are negotiating with the gas company for applying the Welshach apparatus to the street lamps.

The Amazon cable is now open again to Manaus and the Incoartara having been repaired. The responsibility for cutting the wire at that place and the prejudice caused will be settled later on. It said to have been an election dodge.

An association has been organized in São Paulo for the introduction of German colonists. It will be found, in our opinion, that this class of colonists will do better on small holdings of their own, than as contract laborers on the large plantations.

At Maranhão on the 22nd inst. manufacturers of alcoholic beverages closed their establishments on account of the exorbitant taxes. If you happen to think of it, this is an inestimable service to public health and to public morality. Let them remain closed!

The municipal council of Bom Jesus da Lapa, on the S. Francisco river has sent a representation against the bad service rendered by the steamship company which monopolises the traffic on that river. The council asks that the company's privilege be withdrawn.

The British bark *Maiden City*, ashore on the Taipus, or Taipos, beach just outside the entrance to the Santos river, was sold at auction in Santos on the 15th inst. together with all her cargo. The purchaser was Manoel de Jesus Belmarco, who paid 26,000\$ for ship and cargo, or a little over £1,000 at present exchange.

The *Gazeta do Noticias* of the 20th says that a project is already drafted for presentation to congress for the abolition of the São Paulo customs-house. This public office has only just been opened, and at a very great expense, but it apparently does not suit the new masters of São Paulo, the Santos docks company.

At the end of last month fresh beef was selling at 1\$400 per kilo at Cameti, Pará.

It is stated that in Cuba, on an area of some 50 square miles, there are in round numbers 2,500,000 banana trees. No less than 3,500 persons and 26 steamers are engaged on the crop, which is said to pay better than cane. Perhaps some of our sub-tropical Australian settlers might look into this promising industry.—*Produce World*.

The lower house of the United States Congress has passed a bill prohibiting the admission of immigrants who can not read and write. It will be amusing to see the reading and writing classes at Castle Garden to determine whether the immigrant can be admitted, or not. And it will also compel the steamship companies to make a similar test when selling tickets.

According to the new tariff, which seems to be a masterpiece of absurdities, difficulties and complications, sparkling wines pay a duty of 3\$000 per kilogramme, net. To determine the net weight, say of an invoice of champagne, the conferente weighs a bottle, then opens it and pours out the wine (possibly he and the laborers drink it) and then weighs the empty bottle. As the bottles vary in weight, this process must be repeated with several bottles. With champagne at 2\$800 a bottle, this represents a serious loss to the importer. The *Journal* suggests that the average weight of the empty bottle be taken at 700 grammes, and that this waste of expensive wines be checked. Surely there are empty bottles enough of all brands about Rio to enable the conferente to establish an accurate average weight!

Since the publication of our March number, some progress has been made in the German Reichstag with the proposed new fiscal arrangements relating to sugar. The draft, which left the federal council with very little attention, was discussed in the Reichstag and handed over for consideration to a committee of twenty-one members. The project has passed the first reading in committee, the result being that the contingent is raised to 17,000,000 metretres, a modification being made in the manner of fixing the individual contingent for each factory; the tax on production (*betriebsabgabe*) is abandoned; the import duty is 21 mks. in place of 45; the tax on consumption 21 mks. in place of 24; as first proposed, the bounty on export, originally proposed to be 4 mks. per metretres on raw, and 5 1/2 mks. on refined, is put at 3 mks. on raw, 4 mks. on refined, and 3 1/2 mks. on granulated. The second reading is fixed for April 17th, and nothing definite can be stated as regards the exact form the act may assume. We may, however, fairly expect that the net result will certainly be a considerable advance in the bounty on export, and this will probably result in a corresponding advance in the premiums granted by Austria and France.—*Kühn's*, April 22.

## FINANCIAL NOTES

The receipts of the municipal government of Pará amounted in March to 156,453\$033 and the disbursements to 160,951\$337.

It is said that the state government of Pernambuco intends withdrawing from circulation its bonds for 500 reis on account of the counterfeits that have made their appearance.

The Pará chamber of deputies has been discussing a bill for guaranteeing 6% interest on a maximum capital of 2,000,000\$ to be employed in building houses in the state capital.

On the 19th inst. between the stations of Santa Anna and Mendes on the Central railway a brake-man fell from a car and was crushed by the wheels, his body being horribly mutilated.

The President has signed the bill appropriating the sum of 6,333\$210 for the payment of indebtedness contracted in 1893 in the lands and colonization service in the state of Minas Geraes.

The April receipts of the Pernambuco customs-house were 1,475,528\$575, of the state treasury 1,840,745\$671, of the state recebedoria 100,443\$824, and of the city drainage company 48,429\$810.

The Companhia Estrada de Ferro Espírito Santo e Minas, whose head office is at Bussell, in Brazil, has been authorized by the government to operate in Brazil. The capital of the company is 12,500,000 francs and may be increased, or diminished.

President Prudente de Moraes recommends the utmost prudence in voting expenses, but the minister of war says that he requires for his department appropriations to the amount of 58,172,065\$427 for the year 1897.

The estimates for 1896-97 for the state of Pará calculate the receipts at 13,961,500\$000, and the expenditures 13,948,142\$497. Of the receipts, export duties are estimated to produce 10,100,000\$, in which the tax on rubber is the principal item.

According to the last report of the Companhia Mogiana, drawings are now ready for 154 kilometres on the extension to Santos, but have not yet been submitted to the government for approval. The period fixed for concluding the work will shortly expire and the board of directors will ask for its extension.

Ex-station master Salvador Alves, who was considered responsible for the accident on the Central railway between the stations of Juiz de Fora and Mariano Procópio on the 6th of last November, has been tried and acquitted. This is the usual outcome of these judicial delays. Prompt action would go far towards the infliction of proper penalties on those who break the laws.

When the minister of war prepared his report he had not received complete returns showing the expenditure of his department in 1895; but he states that, in addition to the appropriation of 36,735,684\$661 made in the budget, there were deficiency appropriations to the amount of 26,979,827\$665, making a total of 63,715,512\$326. This does not include special appropriations to the amount of 10,107,015\$768, making an aggregate of 82,732,528\$094, which, however, it is to be hoped, has not all been spent.







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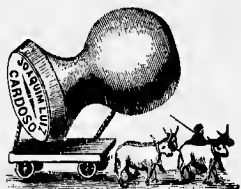
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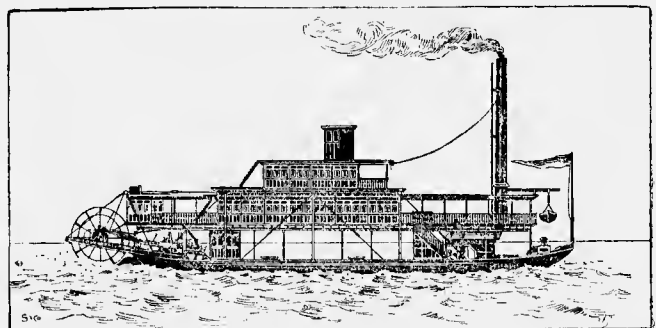
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